

IN THE CLAIMS

1. (currently amended) A system for monitoring inventory in a point of purchase display, comprising:

a portable display stand, having a display area including at least one shelf, operably configured to support an article being displayed for sale thereon, the portable display stand configured to be collapsible ~~and transportable~~;

the display stand further having at least one of a bottom wall, a side wall, a back wall, a top wall, a front wall;

at least one article being displayed for sale within the display area, said article operably configured to be positioned on the at least one shelf,

the at least one article containing a radio frequency identification tag;

~~at least one a single~~ radio frequency antenna, affixed to at least one of the ~~at least one shelf, the at least one of a~~ bottom wall, ~~[[a]]the~~ side wall, ~~[[a]]the~~ back wall, ~~[[a]]the~~ top wall, and the~~[[a]]~~ front wall;

a radio frequency identification tag reader, operably connected to the radio frequency antenna, for transmitting to and receiving radio frequency signals from the radio frequency identification tag, the radio frequency identification tag reader being operably configured to ~~generate signals representative of the presence and absence of~~ interrogate any radio frequency identification tags located within the display ~~[[stand]]~~area,

the radio frequency identification tag reader being operably connectable to a remotely situated monitoring apparatus, for providing a remote indication of the presence and absence of the at least one article containing a radio frequency identification tag, within the display.

2. (canceled)

3. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the portable display stand is fabricated substantially completely from one of: paper; paperboard; corrugated paperboard; bristol board; foam cored board; plastic.

4. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the portable display stand is at least partially covered with emf absorbing/shielding material.

5. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one radio frequency antenna is affixed to the portable display stand by printing the at least one radio frequency antenna on a surface of the portable display stand with metallic ink.

6. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the at least one radio frequency antenna is embedded within the material from which the portable display stand is fabricated.

7. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the portable display stand is provided with wheels to facilitate movement of the portable display stand.

8. (original) The system according to claim 1, wherein the portable display stand incorporates a pallet structure.

9. (currently amended) A system for monitoring inventory in a point of purchase display, comprising:

a portable display stand, having at least one shelf, operably configured to support an article being displayed for sale positioned thereon, the portable display stand substantially fabricated from paperboard;

the display stand further having at least one of a bottom wall, a side wall, a back wall, a top wall, a front wall;

at least one article being displayed for sale, said article operably configured to be positioned on the at least one shelf,

the at least one article containing a radio frequency identification tag;

~~at least one a single~~ radio frequency antenna, affixed to at least one of the ~~at least one shelf, the at least one of a bottom wall, [[a]]the side wall, [[a]]the back wall, [[a]]the top wall,~~ and [[a]]the front wall;

a radio frequency identification tag reader, operably connected to the radio frequency antenna, for transmitting to and receiving radio frequency signals from the radio frequency identification tag, the radio frequency identification tag reader being operably configured to ~~generate signals representative of the presence and absence of~~ interrogate any radio frequency identification tags located within the display stand,

the radio frequency identification tag reader being operably connectable to a remotely situated monitoring apparatus, for providing a remote indication of the presence and absence of the at least one article containing a radio frequency identification tag, within the display.

10. (currently amended) A system for monitoring inventory in a point of purchase display, the inventory including at least one article being displayed for sale having a radio frequency identification (RFID) tag attached thereto, the system comprising:

a portable display stand, having at least one shelf, operably configured to support the at least one article thereon, the portable display stand configured to be collapsible ~~and~~ transportable;

the portable display stand further having at least one of a bottom wall, a side wall, a back wall, a top wall, and a front wall; and

~~at least one a single~~ radio frequency (RF) antenna in contact with ~~at least one of the at least one shelf, the at least one of a bottom wall, a side wall, a the~~ back wall, ~~a top wall, and a front wall~~, wherein the at least one RF antenna is configured to:

receive RF energy from an RFID reader;

transmit RF energy to interrogate the RFID tag attached to the at least one article positioned on any of the at least one shelf; and

receive an RF signal from the interrogated RFID tag, the received RF signal indicating a presence of the at least one article.

11. (previously presented) A system according to claim 10, wherein the portable display stand is substantially fabricated from at least one of paper, paperboard, corrugated paperboard, bristol board, foam cored board, and plastic.

12. (previously presented) A system according to claim 10, wherein the at least one RF antenna is embedded within a material from which the portable display stand is fabricated.

13. (previously presented) A system according to claim 12, wherein the at least one RF antenna is embedded between juxtaposed layers of at least one of a foam core, paperboard, and corrugated paperboard.

14. (previously presented) A system according to claim 10, wherein the portable display stand is substantially fabricated from corrugated paperboard having a fluted paperboard layer positioned between an interior paperboard layer and an exterior paperboard layer, wherein the at least one RF antenna is embedded within flutes of the fluted paperboard layer.

15. (previously presented) A system according to claim 10, wherein the at least one RF antenna is printed on the material from which the portable display stand is fabricated.

16. (previously presented) A system according to claim 10, wherein the at least one RF antenna is adhesively affixed to at least one of the at least one shelf, and the at least one of the bottom wall, the side wall, the back wall, the top wall, and the front wall.

17. (previously presented) A system according to claim 10, wherein the at least one RF antenna is communicatively coupled to the RFID reader by at least one wire.

18. (canceled)

19. (previously presented) A system according to claim 17, wherein the at least one wire is printed on the material from which the portable display stand is fabricated.

20. (previously presented) A system according to claim 10, wherein the portable display stand is shipped to a destination in a folded flat configuration and erected at the destination.

21. (previously presented) A system according to claim 1, wherein said monitoring apparatus is configured to maintain a running inventory of a plurality of articles positioned on the at least one shelf.

22. (previously presented) A system according to claim 21, wherein said monitoring apparatus is configured to communicate the running inventory to an inventory computer.

23. (previously presented) A system according to claim 9, wherein the display stand is configured as a shipping container for carrying a plurality of articles to the point of purchase, said front wall being at least one of integrally formed with at least one of the bottom wall, the side wall, and the top wall, and detachably coupled to at least one of the bottom wall, the side wall, and the top wall wherein the front wall is configured to be at least partially moved to display the at least one article for sale.

24. (previously presented) A system according to claim 10 further comprising an inventory computer communicatively coupled to said radio frequency identification tag reader, said radio frequency identification tag reader configured to continuously interrogate said RFID tags, said inventory computer configured to decrement a running inventory of articles when one of the at least one articles is removed from the at least one shelf and to increment the running inventory of articles when an articles is positioned on the at least one shelf.

25. (new) A system for monitoring inventory in a point of purchase display, comprising:

a portable display stand comprising corrugated paperboard configured to be collapsible, the display stand including a plurality of shelves configured to support an article being displayed for sale thereon, the display stand further comprising a back wall opposing an open display front, said back wall comprising a single radio frequency antenna;

a radio frequency identification tag reader, operably connected to the radio frequency antenna, for transmitting and receiving radio frequency signals between the reader and a radio frequency identification enabled article positioned on any of the plurality of shelves; and

a monitoring apparatus communicatively coupled to the radio frequency identification tag reader, the monitoring apparatus positioned remotely from the tag reader and configured to maintain a running inventory of the radio frequency identification enabled articles positioned on any of the plurality of shelves of the portable display stand.

26. (new) A system in accordance with claim 25 wherein the corrugated paperboard display stand is configured to facilitate interrogation of the radio frequency identification enabled article positioned on any of the shelves by the single radio frequency antenna.